

What is Claimed:

1. A materials tester latching coupling device comprising:
a housing securable to a material tester, having a bore, a groove within said bore, and a groove wall;
an interfacier having a shank, a shoulder, and an annular flange formed on said shank, said shank insertable into said bore; and
a resilient member positioned within said groove and having first and second portions, wherein when said shank is inserted into said bore, said first portion of said resilient member is supported by said annular flange of said interfacier and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said housing.
2. A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein when annular flange has an angled surface.
3. A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein when said shank is inserted into said bore, said shank and an inner wall of said bore substantially do not contact each other except at said resilient member.
4. A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said shank includes a flat portion adapted for use with a spring-loaded-ball assembly.
5. A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said interfacier comprises a penetrator and said latching coupling device is used in conjunction with a penetration hardness tester.
6. A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said resilient member comprises one of a spring and an elastomer O-ring.
7. A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said

resilient member is a canted coil spring.

8. A materials tester latching coupling device comprising:
a housing securable to a material tester, having a bore and an annular flange;
an interfacier having a shank, a shoulder, a groove, and a groove wall, said shank insertable into said bore; and
a resilient member positioned within said groove of said interfacier and having first and second portions,
wherein when said shank is inserted into said bore, said first portion of said resilient member is supported by said annular flange of said housing and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said interfacier.

9. A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said annular flange has an angled surface.

10. A method of securing an interfacier to a materials testing machine comprising the steps of:
providing a housing securable to a material tester, the housing having a bore, a groove in said bore, and a groove wall;
providing an interfacier having a shank, a shoulder, and an annular flange formed on said shank, said shank insertable into said bore;
providing a resilient member positioned within said groove and having first and second portions;
inserting said shank into said bore, wherein said first portion of said resilient member is supported by said annular flange of said interfacier and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said housing.

11. A method of securing an interfacier to a materials testing machine comprising the steps of:

providing a housing securable to a material tester, the housing having a bore and an annular flange;

providing an interfacer having a shank, a shoulder, a groove, and a groove wall;

providing a resilient member positioned within said groove and having first and second portions,

inserting said shank into said bore, wherein said first portion of said resilient member is supported by said annular flange of said housing and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said interfacer.

12. A material testing machine interfacer coupler for securing an interfacer to a material testing machine comprising:

a housing securable to a material tester, having at least one side having a bore, and further having an end face, a groove, and a groove wall, said bore adapted to receive the interfacer; and

a resilient member positioned within said groove and having first and second portions,

wherein when the interfacer is inserted into said bore, said first portion of said resilient member is supported by the interfacer and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said housing.